GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:182
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
PCOs IN GUJARAT
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase of PCOs (Public Call Offices) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of PCOs operational in the State till date; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to further increase the number of PCOs in the State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 80,598 PCOs are operational in Gujarat as on 31.12.2002.

(c) The steps taken to increase the number of PCOs are given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

1. PCOs are liberally allotted to all applicants above 18 years of age as soon as applied for and the restrictions of educational qualification, minimum distance between two PCOs, space requirement for runningthe PCO etc, have been removed. There is no waiting list for PCOs in Gujarat.

2. Licence fee on fax machines has been removed.

3. Conferencing facility on STD PCOs has been allowed.

4. Interest has been allowed on the security deposits made by PCO franchisees.

5. Additional PCO in the same premises is allotted if desired by a franchisee.

6. A franchisee is also allotted a local PCO terminated on Coin Collecting Box (CCB) if he so desires.

7. Payment of PCO bills by cheques has been allowed thereby saving the cost for obtaining Demand Drafts and reducing the risk of carrying cash.

8. Sale of postage stamp and stationery by the PCO franchisees has been permitted.

9. PCO franchisees have been allowed to sell ITC cards with 5% commission.

10. Restoration of PCOs are being done within 24 hours of clearance of pending dues.

11. PCO bills are issued alongwith detailed bills.

12. Safe custody of PCOs has been allowed.

13. 25% of the retailership of prepaid cards of BSNL`s cellular service has been earmarked for allotment to the STD PCO holders.